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2430 E Street, N.W.

25 July 1947

Foreign Broadcast Information Service
London Bureau
31 Davies Street
London W.1, England

Dear Russ;

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Every time there is a serious outage on Signal Corps circuits, as happened Wednesday, there is a good deal of confusion about getting material in by Western Union, resulting in bad delays, idle hours on the "A" Wire and a spotty Daily Report. [] and I think we ought to set up a definite procedure to be followed when outages become apparent, and submit this proposal for discussion with the London staff and your approval.

1. If two hours go by without incoming copy here, we check with Pentagon whether Frankfurt circuits are okay. If Pentagon reports outage we cable [] giving slug numbers of three latest pieces received here.

2. If Frankfurt first reports outage to London, the London editor inquires when the outage began, either by time or by DAAZ number, to determine how far back his file is held up.

3. On the basis of this information from Washington or from Frankfurt, the London editor requests Frankfurt to cancel all DAAZ numbers from what he estimates to be the first one held up to the last one he transmitted. He immediately begins to file by WU, keeping his file to about half the usual wordage, in the absence of other instructions, and including in it material from the cancelled Signals messages according to its importance.

4. In no case do we depend on Signal Corps to divert traffic to WU. The primary purpose of the cancellation to Frankfurt is to avoid possible WU duplication.

5. WU filing is discontinued only on notice from Washington.

6. These rules are suspended from Friday noon to Sunday noon EST, for twenty-four hours preceding the noon of holidays and during any extended period when there is little flow of copy [] if you can specify definite hours when that is regularly the case.

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If there are bugs in this from the London point of view, it can be changed, but we think it worth while to try out a fairly rigid procedure, subject to emendation, since the general understandings of the past have not prevented this recurring trouble. In this case arrangements had just been made to furnish [redacted] office with the roundups; and for the first two days we were able to give them only fragments.

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There will undoubtedly be some WU money wasted in cases where the outage is cleared up quickly, but the budget estimates provided for a good deal more than we are spending, and this procedure will probably not cost more in the long run than the Signals checks by WU which we worked for a while.

Please let us have concurrence or a counter-proposal.

Regards,

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[redacted]
Chief, Field Division

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